

*LAST HOURS AT  
MALMAISON.*

209

oppressed with grief, but still far from suspecting the extent to which both the rigor of fortune and the cruelty of his enemies would be carried."<sup>1</sup>

All the morning of the 29th of June the great road from St. Germain rung with the cries of " Vive TEmpereur ! " proceeding from the troops who passed under the walls of Malmaison. About mid-day General Becker/ sent by the Provisional Gov-

<sup>1</sup> *Memoirs of Lavallette*, vol. ii. p. 197.

<sup>2</sup> The following official letters between Fouche', Davoust, etc., relative to the situation of Napoleon at this period are too interesting to be omitted.

*The Commission of Government to Marshal the  
Prince of Eckmuhl, Minister of  
War.*

PARIS, With June,  
1815.

SIR —Such is the present state of affairs, that it is necessary that Napoleon should resolve on taking his departure for the Isle of Aix. If he does not decide upon doing so when you announce the subjoined resolutions you will take care that he is watched at Malmaison, in order to prevent his escape. You will, with this view, place the proper number of gendarmerie and troops under the direction of General Becker to guard every avenue which leads to Malmaison. For this purpose you will give the necessary orders to the chief inspector of gendarmerie. These measures must be as secret as possible.

This letter is intended for you, but General Becker (who will be charged to acquaint Napoleon with the resolutions) will receive particular instructions from your Excellency, and will make him sensible that they have been drawn up for the interest of the State and the safety of his person; that their prompt fulfilment is indispensable; and finally, that the interest of Napoleon himself, as regards his future fate, imperiously demands their execution.

(Signed) THE DUKE OF  
OTRANTO.

*Copy of the Resolutions of the Commission of  
Government.*

PARIS, 20th June,  
1815.

The Commission of Government resolves as follows: —

Art. I. The Minister of Marine shall give orders for two frigates to be prepared at Rochefort to convey Napoleon Bonaparte to the United States.

Art. II. He shall be furnished, if he requires it, until his departure, with a sufficient escort, under the command of Lieutenant-General Becker, who will be charged to provide for his safety.

Art. III. The Director-General of Posts shall give the necessary orders for the relays of horses.

Art. IV. The Minister of Marine shall give the necessary orders to secure the immediate return of the frigates after the embarkation of Napoleon.

Art. V. The frigates shall not quit Rochefort until the safe arrival of the passports.

Art. VI. The Ministers of Marine, of War, and of the Finances, are charged, in respect of their several departments, with the execution of the present resolutions. (Signed) THE DUKE OF  
OTRANTO.

By the Commission of  
Government, the Assistant-  
Secretary of State,  
(Signed) COUNT BERLIER.

*The Duke of Otranto to the Minister of War.*

PARIS, 2, 7th June, 1815,  
Noon.

SIR— I transmit you a copy of a letter I have just written to the Minister of Marine respecting Napoleon. You will perceive the necessity, upon read-